




**New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated**

Newsletter for September 2025



Photo credit **Morag O'Driscoll** Dusky Sound reflections

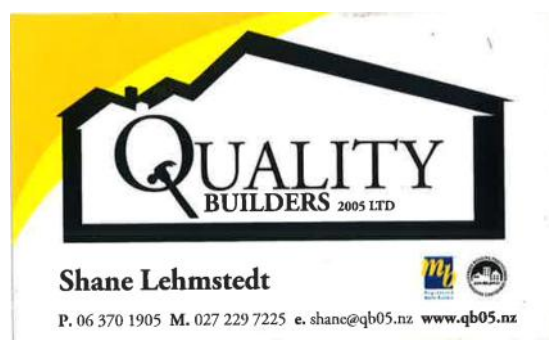
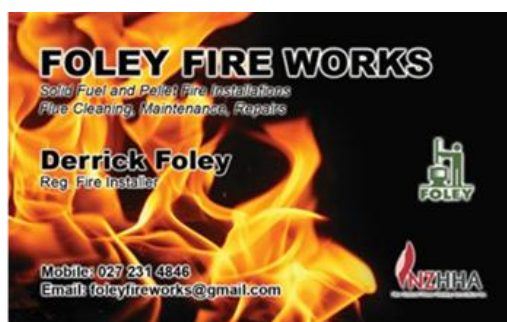
Contacts

President	Andrew Dennes	andrewdennes71@gmail.com
Vice President	Gary Warren	027 282 1112
Secretary	Liz Nicholson	027 224 2556 or 06-379 5108
Treasurer	Sean Roberts	021 822 802
Committee	Aidan Bichan	027 432 3410
	Alex Beesley	
	Dave Bashford	027 459 5477
	Derek Williams	027 656 8897
	Derrick Foley	027 231 4846
	Lloyd Rayner	027 608 0325
	Luke Johnson	027 630 7640
	Murry Clark	
	Pete Cunningham	021 190 9468
	Philip Gray	027 474 0717
	Richard O'Driscoll	021 141 1472
	Shane Dougan	027 247 4484
	Mark Wellington	027 770 0065
	Andrew Dennes	022 323 6993 please use this number for bookings and enquiries
Parkvale Hall Booking		
LandSAR	Luke Johnson	027 630 7640
Website		http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/
Facebook 		https://www.facebook.com/WairarapaNZDA
Closed Facebook page	Open only to members. You can apply to join here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/79860064354866	
Newsletter Story Competition	October 2024 to September 2025 – prize of \$50 Stories and photos to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com	

Previous newsletters (back to July 2018) are available on our website:
www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/newsletters

Calendar

Sun 14 September	2025	Firewood working bee. South Featherston access off SH53 before the bridge, 'Farriers' tanker turn-around area.
Wed 17 September	2025	General meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm. Speaker Dawie Breedt , Business Development Manager, Bene Footwear
Sun 21 September	2025	Branch shooting competitions. Gladstone Range. Starting 9 am. Details later in newsletter
Sun 28 September	2025	Firewood working bee. Venue to be advised
Wed 1 October	2025	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
Sat 11 October	2025	Branch annual dinner & prize-giving. We will also convene a short Special General Meeting as part of the dinner to adopt a new branch constitution as required by the new Incorporated Societies Act.
Wed 5 November	2025	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
Wed 19 November	2025	King & Henry open night. Details to be advised.





August general meeting Hunting & Fishing open night

A hugely popular night with over 90 members in attendance. Guest Speaker **Joe Edlington (J.E.Wilds)** of YouTube fame took us through his approach to hunting and filming as well as talking about latest gear from Hunttech, MSR, and Leopold. Kerry won a Hunttech top for the roaring competition. Joe also responded to our questions and showed off his firearm.

Plenty of money went through the till with some sharp deals on offer. Liz N took out two of the prize draws(!!) and Liz W the other. Mark W was heard to utter "I chose to identify as a Liz" 😊

Thanks to Joe, the team at Masterton Hunting & Fishing, the sponsors, and Gary Warren for organising this. We're planning to do it again in 2026.





JE Wilds •

@j.e.wilds-hunting · 297K subscribers · 80 videos

Follow Joe Edlington JE Wilds as he takes you on incredible wilderness hunting adventures...more

[instagram.com/j.e.wilds/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/j.e.wilds/?hl=en)

Subscribe

[JE Wilds - YouTube](#)

Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

Reminder to all members; if seeking a reimbursement, a copy of the invoice must be provided.
Income: hard antler sale \$1700. Expense: hall insurance \$2500, small increase from last year

Balances: \$11,354.23, Term deposits \$23,927.92

The branch bank account number for payments (firewood, etc) is 03-0687-0022096-00
(This is not the account for payment of memberships – which go direct to National Office.)

FUNDRAISING

Firewood working bee dates: two Sundays in September 14 and 28.

Working Bee on Sunday 14 September will start 8 am, South Featherston access off SH53 before the bridge, 'Farriers' tanker turn around area. 28th: venue to be advised (could be at the Deer Park). Ringing and splitting. Please bring appropriate protective gear and a trailer if you want wood. All split firewood to be removed at each working bee

HUTS & TRACKS

Greater Wellington Backcountry Network (GWBN) continue their steady work through winter. Mikimiki track vegetation cut back completed

Mike Thrupp represents the branch at Greater Wellington Backcountry Network Inc meetings. Hamish Graham represents us with the Aorangi Restoration Trust.

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

5

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

SEARCH & RESCUE

One standby incident this month. Please contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR

HALL

Plenty of enquiries regarding hire. Plans being made for fencing the hall area. Derek Williams had a site visit to the hall with Fulton Hogan to view driveway and yard area. For hall bookings call 022 323 6993 or email wairarapanzda@gmail.com.

DEER PARK

Masterton District Council have marked the trees for removal. We are clarifying which trees we cut down. Valley Plumbing have completed a further tidy up. We have asked MDC to supply a clipper for us to use when we cut the next lot of trees/vegetation. Goal is to fence the new pen next month.

Deer are looking healthy. Photos below were taken 31 August.



MEMBERSHIPS

Three new applicants approved. Four new applicants/transfers have been invited to the next general meeting

RANGE & SHOOTING

Branch shooting competition **Sunday 21 September starting 9 am at Gladstone Range**. Details and rules next page.

Gladstone range is available for the use of members. Branch members get six free visits a year.

Hours for using the Gladstone range for visitors including Deerstalkers 9:30 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday and Wednesday afternoon from 2 pm unless you're accompanied by a Gladstone WPSSC member.

Please keep to these times to avoid disappoint as with new police regulations, Range Officers are required on active ranges even for casual shooting.

There is a Precision Rifle match booked on range 6 on the first Sunday of the month so late morning is recommended for that day unless you would like to join in with them which you are more than welcome to do.

Sunday 21 September 2025
Annual Club Shoot Competition
Gladstone range – 9 am sharp

Centrefire, Rimfire, F-class, Military
New class: Varmint .17 HMR, .22 magnum through to .221 Remington

Junior prizes – come along and have a go

We have a lot of events to shoot in a limited time so please listen to range staff and help with setting up, packing up etc. All shooters to bring own ammunition.

Match 1. Junior (under 18 years of age) Rimfire

50yds, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

Match 2. Senior Rimfire

50yds, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

Match 3. Varmint rifle (.17 to .221 Rem)

100yds, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

Match 4. Centrefire (for larger calibres above .221 up to 8mm)

100yds, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

PLEASE NOTE MATCHES 1-4

- Are to be shot unsupported, no slings, bipods, rests etc
- Scopes are to be set not exceeding 6x power.
- Sporting stock configuration only.
- No special target clothing, gloves, jackets etc.
- No heavy or target barrels.

Match 5. Junior F Class

100yds, 10 rounds. Up to 8mm, max score 110. Any aids; bipods, slings, rests, barrel/stock configurations allowed.

Match 6. Senior F Class

100yds, 10 rounds. Up to 8mm, max score 110. Any aids; bipods, slings, rests, barrel/stock configurations allowed.

Match 7. Military

100yds, 10 rounds. For iron sighted (no Parker Hale target sights), bolt action military rifles of military origin (may be sporterised but not restocked with sporting stocks) and must be of military calibre ie, 6.5x55, .303, 8mm etc.

Branch trophies will be competed for in the following categories:

Junior Rimfire, Senior Rimfire, Centrefire, Varmint, Open Aggregate, Women's Aggregate, F Class Junior, F Class Senior, Military.

Range Rules will be read out to you on the day but I would like to remind all:

- All shooters and spectators must abide by WPSSC range rules.
- All children are to have a parent/guardian supervise them at all times.
- All visitors to sign the range book on arrival.
- Hearing and eye protection to be worn while on the range.
- Chamber flags are now mandatory on the range (will be available on the day).

There are four standard rifle-firing positions: prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling.

Prone

The prone position is the steadiest of the four positions. Because it's the easiest to hold, it's the best position for mastering the fundamentals of firing—aiming, breath control, trigger squeeze, and follow through.



Standing

With neither arm supported, this is the most difficult position for firing an accurate shot. Rather than trying to hold the barrel steady, which is impossible, try to keep movement of the barrel to as small an area as possible. Smooth, natural motion will produce the best shot.



Sitting

Both arms are supported by your legs. Next to the prone position, this is the steadiest position.



Kneeling

With only one arm braced, the kneeling position is less steady than the prone and sitting positions.



National NZDA submission on Cape Palliser Access

The Issue

South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) is proposing a bylaw that would restrict access to an unformed legal road leading to the DOC estate and foreshore via Cape Palliser Road. While the stated intention is to address environmental damage and safety concerns, the proposal effectively removes long-standing public access rights.

Why It Matters

Unformed legal roads have the same status as any public road and guarantee access to public land. Limiting access here sets a dangerous precedent for other areas across New Zealand. Access to the public estate is essential for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation, and it supports the cultural, historical, and social fabric of our communities. Poor behaviour by a small minority should not result in blanket restrictions for all.

What NZDA Is Doing

Our National Access Committee has lodged a formal objection to the proposed bylaw. We support Herenga ā Nuku's position on protecting legal road status and have highlighted concerns around:

- Misuse of the term "serious harm" to justify restrictions.
- Failure to follow proper legal process for road stopping.
- Lack of evidence that removing vehicle access addresses the real issue.

We've called for practical alternatives, including:

- Education and signage to encourage responsible behaviour.
- Road repairs and protective fencing.
- Engagement with user groups for restoration projects.
- Targeted enforcement against offenders rather than penalising everyone.

[Read our submission here.](#)



Rakiura Whitetail Trust Formed



The Rakiura Whitetail Trust has officially been formed.

The Rakiura Whitetail Trust will advocate for the sustainable management of the whitetail deer population on Rakiura / Stewart Island. This is a vital step in ensuring the herd, a significant part of our hunting heritage, remains for future generations.

Why the Trust matters:

- Whitetail deer on Rakiura face threats from National Park status and lack of legal protections.
- The Predator Free Rakiura project could significantly impact the herd.
- Rational debates, ecologically sound approaches and methodologies are needed for the management of Whitetail deer on Rakiura

The Trust's objectives include:

- Engaging directly with DOC and ZIP.
- Minimising the impact of pest control toxins on whitetail populations.
- Developing long-term management strategies with the Rakiura community.
- Promoting evidence-based, ecologically sound deer management.

How you can help:

Support from all hunters, especially whitetail hunters, is essential. The Trust will soon launch a Rakiura Whitetail Supporters Club and a new website. In the meantime, they need immediate backing to hit the ground running.



To support the Trust or find out more, email RakiuraDeer@gmail.com

This is a huge win for hunters, herd management, and anyone who values New Zealand's hunting heritage. Let's get behind it.

[Follow the Rakiura Whitetail Trust Facebook Page](#)



New Council member for the NZ Game Animal Council

The NZ Game Animal Council (GAC) welcomes the appointment of Matthew Clarke to the Council.

Matt is a lifelong recreational hunter, having grown up on the Coromandel Peninsula in a family of keen outdoorsmen. Joining his older brothers on hunts from an early age and gaining his firearms licence on his 16th birthday, he has hunted many regions of New Zealand over more than 40 years.

Matt has made his home in the hunter's paradise of Nelson and regularly hunts the red deer herds throughout the top of the South Island, with one or more of his four, equally keen children. He has built his career in the aviation industry, and is the Chief Executive of Wellington Airport, a longstanding Director of Nelson Airport and the Chairman of the New Zealand Airports Association in addition to other non-executive positions.

Throughout his career he has been deeply involved in navigating complex regulatory environments, local and central Government relations and complex stakeholder management. Mr Clarke relishes the opportunity to bring these skills to bear to continue the important work of the GAC. His clear goal is to ensure that the hunting opportunities he has enjoyed are not remembered as the 'good old days'. Hunting in New Zealand must be valued, managed and progressively enhanced for the next generation and those that follow.



New Council member Matt Clarke

"Matthew joins the GAC at an exciting time for hunting and game animal management in New Zealand," GAC Chair Grant Dodson says. "With herds of special interest, and the Game Animal Council Amendment Bill, there's some big bits of work on the horizon and we're looking forward to bringing Matthew up to speed and having his expertise on Council," he says.

Council members Peter Swann (Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata East Coast, Tairāwhiti, Tūranganui a Kiwa) and Melissa Jackson (Uenuku, Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, Ngāti Maniapoto) have both been reappointed to the GAC for another three years. Tui Keenan (Ngāti Porou) has chosen not to stand for reappointment, as she focuses on further education.



National Goat Hunting Competition

The Department of Conservation (DOC) and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) are proud to announce the return of the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition – a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the environmental and agricultural damage caused by wild goats.

Running from 1 August to 26 November 2025, the competition encourages hunters and landowners across Aotearoa New Zealand to tackle the growing wild goat population.

Wild goats are prolific breeders and pose a serious threat to native biodiversity and farmland. This competition is a practical and rewarding way for communities to contribute to conservation efforts while enjoying the outdoors.

The National Wild Goat Hunting Competition is about more than just hunting—it's about protecting native ecosystems, supporting farmers, and encouraging responsible community involvement.

This year, the competition has the private landowner category open again. Landowners who register can be paired with vetted NZDA hunters and go in the draw to win over \$3,200 worth of prizes from Bushnell and Hunting & Fishing NZ Ltd.

The hunter categories also have great prizes up for grabs, including gear from Hunting & Fishing NZ, thermal monoculars from Nocpix, a tent from M.I.A, binoculars from Bushnell, freeze dried meals from Real Meals, a wild goat hunt with the NZ Hunter crew, and more—there's over \$70,000 worth of prizes, it's a great time to get involved.

"We want to see wild goat hunting become a regular feature in the hunting calendar," says Mike Perry, Wild Animals Manager at DOC.

Thinking of entering this year's comp? Entries are open from 1 August to 26 November. Whether you're hunting on public land or teaming up with a local landowner, you never know where it might take you.

The National Wild Goat Hunting Competition is brought to you by the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association. It is supported by Federated Farmers of NZ, Hunting & Fishing NZ, and Te Tari Pūreke Firearms Safety Authority.

[National Wild Goat Hunting Competition](#)



Updated Storage and Transportation Guide for 2025

We have made a number of changes to our secure storage and transportation guide for firearms and ammunition. The changes are designed to make the guidance easier to understand, interpret and apply, for both firearms licence holders and our vetters.

Some sections have been strengthened or clarified (such as clarity on the construction of commercially built steel safes and options for ammunition storage), and new sections have been added (such as guidance on where to store keys and using heavy bank safes or shipping containers for firearms storage).

You can read the updated guide in full on our website here: [Storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

Prohibited tubular magazines and .22 calibre rifles

Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority has made a policy change for high-capacity non-detachable (tubular) prohibited magazines, which affects some rimfire .22 calibre rifles – including lever, bolt or pump action.

From June 2025, firearms licence holders who have registered these firearms may be given the option to modify the prohibited tubular magazines – those holding more than 10 rounds – that may allow these firearms to be retained as a non-prohibited item.

The only pathway to remedy the non-compliant firearm is through registration in the Firearms Registry.

After the .22 has been registered, the licence holder will be contacted by Te Tari Pūreke Compliance Team who will work with the licence holder on what options are available to them, including modification by a qualified gunsmith.

To find out more on this policy change see our website here: [Te Tari Pūreke responds to .22 prohibited magazine issue | Firearms Safety Authority](#)



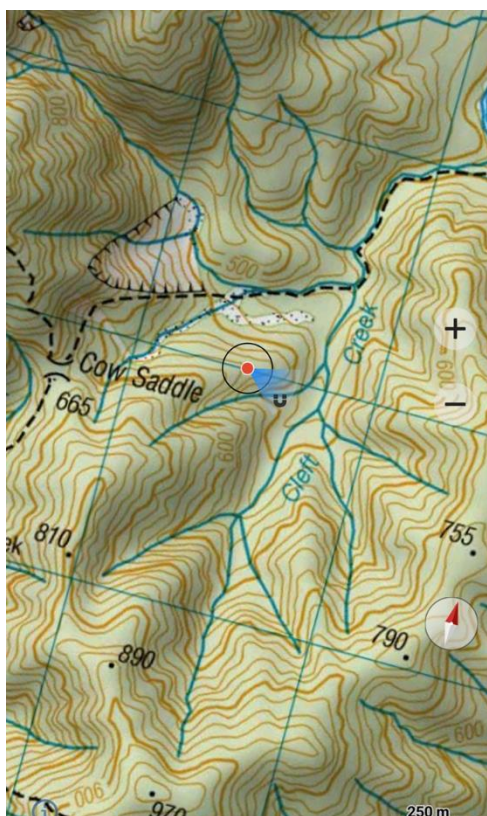
Glenn's Deer-stalking, I mean Goat-stalking, I mean Pig-stalking trip

Glenn Richardson

Saturday 9th August, the weather was iffy at best. Ultimately, I have the time off work, so I'm going. Loaded up for 5 to 6 days. Destination Cow Creek via Ruamahanga river track.

My wife dropped me at the roadend, where Mike and Murray were heading off to hunt the private land the track crosses. I hope they were successful. However I also know I cost them a couple of easy ones. Sorry guys.

The first three hours walking is a doodle, in fact the whole track is. I just made a couple of mistakes. Along the river terrace the track is overgrown in places, or rerouted around dead fall, and I lost it a few times, no issue although as off trail was equal in ease of walking through. In cleft creek I got caught up on a deer or goat trail for 25 minutes before I turned back to see I had missed a river crossing. Back on the trail for about an hour, when the track disappeared. No way around either up or down in the now gathering darkness. Walked back to the river to find a large orange triangle indicating I needed to cross. Yes, on the way up I missed the second river crossing, and followed the original track, not the new one. Made it to Cow Saddle just on dark. It was now snowing heavily. Made it into Cow Creek about 7, got dry, got the fire going and started to wind down.



Spent the next day stalking the river flats south of the hut, with a long leisurely lunch and restocking the woodshed. Pig sign noted in places.

Monday morning I was up at 3 and out the door at 4. Headed up the main spur above the hut, on the track until the old sign to Table ridge. I had hope that I could find a route around the 1200 metre mark from that spur to the northern spur above the North Mitre stream. Thanks to a fresh set of deer tracks that had crossed that exact route that morning. It was actually an easy traverse. I had the thermal out at one point in the snow (one of the only times I used it) heard a noise behind me, and watched a spooked hind running away. Later on, about half 3 in the afternoon I was barked at by a hind I never saw.

Wednesday I was away at 6 and spent the day criss-crossing the river stalking all the river terraces. Plenty of sign, but southerly and raining, so not ideal. Pig sign increases the closer you get to Mitre Flats.



Last day, walk out day. Had a sleep in. Too much breakfast to cut down on weight, and headed off about 8. Crossed the bridge climbed up to the track, intending to stalk the terraces between the track and the river. About five minutes into the first terrace I stumbled on a pure white goat and pure white kid. Unfortunately, at 7 metres the final click of the bolt proved I wasn't fast enough. I dropped my pack and went in search in case they didn't bolt far, then saw a small pig. You will do me, so I dropped her, and the bush around erupted with 7 piglets running at mum. Even while I was processing her for my backpack they kept coming back. They will all survive.

Which brings me to the reason I wrote this account of my trip. I would like to hear from those who have dog teams interested in three or four day trips, to get in up the Waingawa and knock the pig population around a lot, goats too, as we will also need people without dog teams to come along as well. The pig rooting in there has gotten worse over the last 5 years. Something needs to be done soon.



Buy, Sell, and Swap

If you have hunting or outdoor related items that you want to buy, sell, or swap, then we'll include these in the Newsletter free of charge (better than TradeMe). Send items (with picture if you wish) to wairarapanzda@gmail.com

- .223 AMMO
80 cents per round. Contact Aidan on 027 432 3410
- WAIRARAPA BRANCH SHIRTS
We have arranged to get some fancy Stoney Creek Corporate shirts printed with our branch logo. See the below link for shirt details and sizing.
<https://www.stoneycreek.co.nz/index.php?route=product/search&search=HMM-8206-TSC%20> These can only be ordered by attendance at a general meeting at a cost of \$70 per shirt (pay via electronic transfer or cash on the night). We will submit orders every couple of months.
- NZDA MERCHANDISE <https://nzda.shop/collections/>



Trophy Boil

Trophy Boil is Designed and Made in NZ

Website: www.trophyboil.co.nz

Email: admin@trophyboil.co.nz

Trophy Boil Electric Simmering Pot

The Electric Trophy Head Simmering Pot is built for hunters, taxidermists, and outdoor enthusiasts who want precision and efficiency in preparing skull mounts. With a thermostat-controlled heating system, it eliminates the mess and inconsistency of gas setups. Safe, clean, and energy-efficient, the spacious stainless-steel pot handles a variety of game while protecting delicate bone structures. Upgrade your skull-cleaning process with speed, reliability, and professional-quality results.

👉 Purchase a Trophy Boil™ unit for \$799 (normally retailing at \$999) – that's a 20% discount.

The Trophy Boil™ is the original electric skull simmering pot – purpose-built for preparing trophy skulls such as deer, boar, tahr, chamois, goats, and more.

Made from high-grade stainless steel and fitted with certified electrical components, it's built to last. The 2000W thermostat-controlled element maintains a steady simmer at around 95 °C, making it easy to clean skulls without over-boiling or damaging bone.

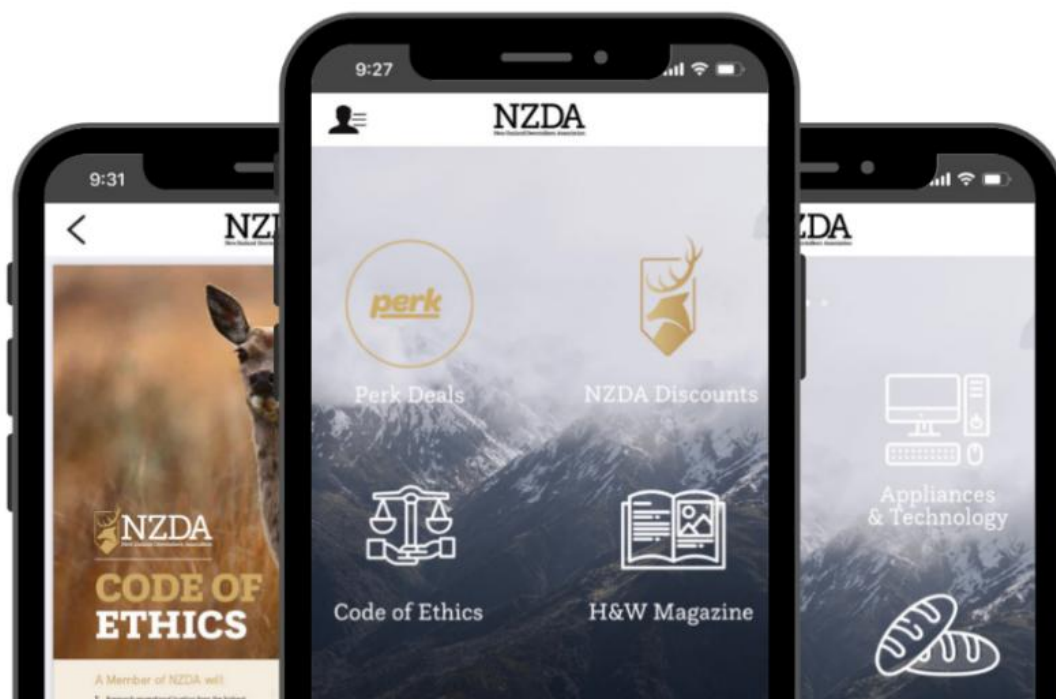
Simply add water, plug it in, turn it on, and let it run – no gas bottles, burners, or makeshift set-ups required.

Safe, reliable, and efficient – perfect for anyone preparing European mounts.

Very soon, these units will also be available through the NZDA Member App at a 15% discount, but this 20% branch-only offer is an additional benefit we'd like to make available directly to you.

If you are interested, please get in touch and we can arrange purchase and delivery. If you need to call me my number is 0276371188

A major perk of your NZDA membership is the official app.



DOWNLOAD ON IOS

DOWNLOAD ANDROID

What you'll find inside:

- Discounts at major retailers.
- The latest edition of our quarterly Member Magazine: [NZ Hunting & Wildlife](#) - Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter
- Conference and events announcements
- [Competitions](#)
- Link to the NZDA store
- Your membership information
- [HUNTS training program](#) – training courses & certification for HUNTS Instructor

Final Thoughts

Be safe be sure.
Assume it is a person not a deer.
No meat is better than no mate.
Identify your target.

Disclaimer: The contents of this Newsletter come from various sources, and the opinions or ideas expressed are not necessarily endorsed by this committee or by National Executive, nor may they reflect Branch policy.



GO IN THE DRAW TO

WIN A BRAND NEW MITSUBISHI TRITON UTE



\$25 TICKETS ON SALE NOW

THE 4X4 TRITON GLX G-SPEC COMES COMPLETE WITH
Snorkel, nudgebar, 20" alloys with all terrain tyres,
tow-bar, mud mats and tray liner.



Tickets on sale until the 27th October 2025 or until sold out.
More information can be found at www.deerstakers.org.nz